IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 18 MAY 2006

PATENT 2001-1446

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hein WILLE et al.

Conf.

Application No. NEW NATIONAL PHASE

Group

Filed May 18, 2006

Examiner

METHOD OF SUPPLYING OIL FROM A FLOATING PRODUCTION STRUCTURE TO AN OFFLOADING BUOY VIA A THERMALLY INSULATED FLEXIBLE TRANSFER DUCT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 18, 2006

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

An Appendix is attached following the signature page of this paper.